

LEAD *Educator*



CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

SPRING 2003

MISSION STATEMENT

The LEAD *Educator* is a quarterly publication of the Long Beach Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Our goal is to provide news and information about childhood lead poisoning prevention measures for parents, childcare providers and the medical community.

In addition, we provide the latest information on lead poisoning screening and legislative measures.

NEWS

Pacific Southwest Regional Conference on Mold, Lead, Healthy Homes and Children's Environmental Health

This is one of two regional conferences that took place during the month of February. The conference brought together professionals from government, medical establishment, real estate, contractors and community health and housing advocates. The key purpose of the conference was to discuss and examine children's health, health prevention strategies, governmental policy, and hazard control activities as it relates to lead and mold in children's home environment.

The three-day conference was convened at the Marina del Rey Hotel Wednesday, February 26 through Friday, February 28, 2003. The program also included pre-conference workshops and a complimentary bus tour of Los Angeles, including visits to housing units with a wide range of substandard conditions. The following are some resolutions and recommendations adopted at the closing plenary session:

Draft Resolutions:

- Communication: We require adequate interpretation services in order to ensure full participation of audiences.
- Solidarity: We support each other's actions (i.e. petition signing campaigns and direct action).
- Human Rights: We all have the right to safe, affordable, and quality housing.
- Worker Protection: We demand lead-safe work practices across the board (i.e. in all pre-1978 housing).
- Screening: We demand healthcare providers to test all children, especially children served by Medi-Cal. We demand universal reporting at all blood lead levels.
- Children's Health: We have a zero tolerance for lead, as there is no safe amount of lead in children.
- Housing: When HUD sells houses, they must be safe and the house must receive a lead inspection.
- Food: To ensure that food and food containers are lead free.

Recommendations:

- State of California to commit money and other resources to the enforcement of SB 460.
- State Contractor's Board to require training and education in lead safety for contractor's license.
- California's Dept. of Health Services (DHS) to adopt sampling technician certification.
- California's DHS to adopt Environmental Protection Agency's stricter clearance standards.

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles

The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) is a non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal assistance to low-income people in Los Angeles County. LAFLA's Housing and Eviction Defense Center handles cases involving rent control, unsafe buildings, utility shut-offs and subsidized public housing problems.

In addition, LAFLA handles a variety of other cases involving family, employment, immigration, government benefits, consumer laws and victims of violent crime. LAFLA does not handle criminal or fee-generating cases.

For additional information about LAFLA's services in Long Beach, call (562) 435-3501 or by visiting them on the web at: www.lafla.org

Correction:

"Governor Davis signs Senate Bill 460:"
Prior to the enactment of SB 460, laboratories were obliged to report blood lead levels greater than 25 µg/dL, not 20 µg/dL as stated on the Winter 2003 issue of this publication.

Noon Time Conference:

Is lead still a threat to the children of Long Beach? A Team Approach to Case Management and Prevention

Where: LBMMC **When:** July 9, 2003
For more information call (562) 570-4083.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Childhood Lead Poisoning and the Role of Public Health Nursing:

Our team of Public Health Nurses is an integral part of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP). Public Health Nurses (PHNs) team up with expert Registered Environmental Health Specialists and together provide an in home assessment which includes lead source identification, parent education and nutrition counseling.



The most important role of the PHN as a CLPPP collaborator is case management for lead-burdened children. Ensuring that lead-burdened children receive additional lead testing and follow-up is an important priority for PHNs. In addition, case management may also require that other members of the family be tested for lead, such as other young children and pregnant mothers.

Furthermore, PHNs also take on the responsibility of providing lead poisoning education and prevention to our medical community. This involves one-on-one sessions with office staff, nurses and physicians; were lead poisoning sources, case management guidelines and policy issues are discussed. Furthermore, PHNs will occasionally provide lead poisoning education to the general public during health fairs and other outreach efforts.



Moreover, PHNs are professional Registered Nurses who have Baccalaureate Degrees in Nursing and a Public Health Nurse Certificate with an emphasis on Community Health. The role of the PHN extends far beyond collaboration with the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The services of the Field Public Health Nurse include:

- Communicable Disease Investigation
- Infant and Child Health
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Support
- Maternal Health
- Family Systems Support
- Adult Health

Public Health Nurses are truly committed to serving the public health needs of the people of Long Beach. For more information call (562) 570-4203.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Report

Current Open Cases Under Management:

118

New Lead Cases For (Jan-Mar, 2002):

8

CHDP Provider PM 160 Lead Report (Jul/02 – Feb/03)

No. of 1-2 year old children visits:

5434

No. of 1-2 year old children tested for lead:

1058

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For additional information, please call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (562) 570-4203 or (562) 570-4083 (Spanish)

Medi-Cal and Healthy Families

Call: (562) 570-8770

Or

1 (800) 832-2307

INFORMATION ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

California Department of Health Services
<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/>

Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning
<http://a eclp.org>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<http://epa.gov/opptintr/lead/>

T.D.D. (562) 570-4230

This document is available in an alternative format by request:
(562) 570-4083